dough, &c. The effects which would be produced by this combination appear highly valuable. Namely:—

1st. A vacuum to a steam-engine which will create a power without danger and without complication.

2nd. A large quantity of distilled water, useful for bread, or for other purposes.

3rd. The application of a current of cold air rushing through a moving wheel, and impinging on the heated surfaces of the condenser, from which simple application two distinct motive powers are attained without danger or complication.

Now if this combination of principles were properly and extensively carried out, it does appear that the nation would be benefited. For instance, ten fire-proof bakeries might supply London with bread from the grain direct; while iron works, sugar works, salt works, and other arts might avail themselves of the safety, durability, and economy of the combination.

HENRY PRATT.

METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWERS.

A GENERAL court was held on Thursday, the 20th, Lord Ebrington, M.P., in the chair. Various works were ordered to be carried into effect.

Mrs. Farland, of Strutton-ground, Westminster, was summoned to appear, for having neglected to lay in drains from her premises to the public sewer, in compliance with a notice served upon her under the powers of the new Act of Parliament. In reference to this subject a letter was received from the clerk to the Westminster Improvement Commissioners, stating that, as the property would shortly be required in the formation of the new Victoria-street, with several other houses in that neighbourhood, the commissioners recommended that some general arrangement should be come to upon the subject.—A short conversation ensued, and it was agreed that the surveyors should report to the court generally on the improvements by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, and of other property in the city of Westminster.

Mr. Lowley, of Piccadilly, was summoned to shew cause why he had not drained his house, in pursuance of notice received. An agent attended for Mr. Lowley, and stated that he was merely the tenant-at-will of the premises; that upon receiving the order of the court he had communicated the same to his landlord, but that he had taken no notice of it whatever.—Mr. Hertslet said a form of notice had been proposed by the late commissioners to meet such cases as the present.—It was then agreed that a proper peremptory notice should be served upon Mr. Lowley, requiring him immediately to carry their first notice into effect.

On the question that summonses be issued for the defaulters in the payment of sewer rates in the Tower Hamlets division, Mr. Hertslet said, at the present time there were 2,040 defaulters in this division; and a report having been circulated that it was not the intention of the present Commissioners of Sewers to enforce any rates, the greatest difficulty was experienced in collecting them.—The necessary notices were ordered to be made out, and a court will be held on the 24th of August next to take them into consideration.

The City of London and the Ordnance Survey.—Mr. Chadwick said that having been invited, himself, Captain Yolland, and Mr. Austin, had waited upon a deputation from the corporation of London, and had given such explanations on the subject of the survey as were required. The matter had been referred to a committee, and their report would in due time be laid before the Court, and he trusted that in working out this plan they should not be under the necessity of leaving the city of London a blank in the map. As regarded the question of the expense, it was calculated at the rate of 130*l.* per mile, but this average was formed for the whole districts, and not for any dense or intricate portion. The corporation portion consisted of about one-tenth, and that the most crowded in the metropolis, which might raise the expense for it to 450*l.*

Mr. Lambert Jones said there could be no difference of opinion as to the importance of an Ordnance survey—there could be no question as to the value of it, whether to the corporation of London or any other body.

It was resolved unanimously, "That the General Purposes Committee be authorised to direct the execution of any works that may appear to be expedient for covering in any of the out-falls of sewers."

Thomas Mitchell, of Beresford-street, Walworth, was summoned for having caused certain erections over the sewer in that street.—It appeared that the late commissioners, in their annual view, had observed the shed now complained of, and having summoned the party, ordered him to be fined 50*l.* unless the nuisance was removed. This, it seemed, up to the present time, had not been done.—The court this day, after a long investigation into the circumstances, ordered that the former fine of 50*l.* should be enforced, unless within one month such erection should be removed in a manner satisfactory to the surveyor.

Thomas Morris, a builder, was summoned for irregular drains at the rear of Pomeroy-street, Kent-road.—In this case it appeared that square brick drains had been improperly constructed, without mortar, below the level of the sewer, and the discharge effected in a manner quite opposed to the rules of this court.—Mr. Morris said that he had erred in entire ignorance.—Mr. Leslie inquired what would be the expense of a proper drainage?—The surveyor said that a proper drainage might have been laid down at one-third less than the present one had cost.—Mr. Hutton thought that, as Mr. Morris was a builder, he should be fined for his ignorance, and moved that he be fined 40*s.*, and be required to lay down a drain in a proper manner.—Resolution carried.

Adjourned to the 10th of August.

Correspondence.

ST. PANCRAS' CHURCH.

SIR,—In your last number there is a "word to the authorities of St. Pancras," alluding to "a prevalent report that the parochial authorities of the parish are about to build a residence for their clergyman upon the space on the north (query south) side of their church in Euston-square."

If the writer, when speaking of the "parish authorities," alludes to the churchwardens and vestrymen, I beg to inform him that they have no authority to interfere, nor have they been consulted on the subject. The duly-constituted authorities are the vicar and the church trustees; but I can scarcely believe they would be so wanting in good taste and judgment as to disfigure the church by building any common dwelling-house near to it.

Any building close to the church would be highly objectionable. It would obstruct the present fine open view of the church, would be very near the catacombs; and injurious to the adjoining residence, and be generally disapproved by the great body of the parishioners.—I am, Sir, &c., A VESTRYMAN.

Miscellanea.

ROUND TOWER IN THE ISLE OF MAN.—It is near Peel Castle. "In the midst of the greensward, which now has overspread nearly the whole of the area within the walls, and forms a short, sweet pasturage, is a pyramidal mound of turf, of a rectangular form, facing the four cardinal points, and measuring about seventy yards along each side. The angles have well nigh disappeared, and it presents but the rude outline of its ancient proportion. It seems to have been an old Danish fort, thrown up, probably, about the beginning of the eleventh century. Close by this mound, perched on the highest point of the island, rises the Round Tower, with its antique masonry almost wholly of the old red sandstone, regularly laid in courses of long and thin stones, with the wide jointing filled in with coarse shell-mortar of extreme hardness. It is in every respect similar to those of Ireland, so admirably described by Mr. Petrie; and its position, a little to the north of the ruined church, seems to tally remarkably with the view which he has taken of the double purport of these buildings, as belfries and as deeps or places of strength for the protection of sacred utensils, books, relics, and other valuables, and into which, in cases of sudden attack, the ecclesiastics, to whom they belonged, might retire for security. There is a little door facing the east at the lower part of the tower, 6 feet 9 inches above the ground, to which access seems to have been gained by a ladder: four small square-headed apertures near the top face the cardinal points, and one other is seen lower down on the north-west or seaward side."*—From "The Isle of Man and its History," by the Rev. J. G. Cumming. J. Van Voorst.

	ft.	in.
* Circumference of the tower near the base	44	6
Internal diameter at the door	5	9
Height of the tower, about	80	0

POLICE DISQUISITION ON "FAIR SCIENTIFIC DISCUSSION."—On a summons at the instance of Mr. Joseph Woods, patentee of the chronometric governor used in steam-engines, issued under 6th and 7th Vic., cap. 96, sec. 3, against such as shall, amongst other misdemeanours, "offer to prevent the printing or publishing of any matter or thing touching any other person, with intent to extort any money," Mr. Robert Booty Couzens, of 4, Bedford-place, Old Kent-road, was brought before the police magistrate at the Mansion-house, on Thursday last, on evidence including a letter which the complainant's representative, Mr. Humphreys, said "was perhaps such as had never been heard of before." This therefore unprecedented letter run curtly in the following terms:—"Sir: I have written for publication a small treatise on the causes of the inefficiency of steam-engine governors, and in investigating the principles of the chronometric governor of which you are the patentee, *I find myself compelled* [by conscientious scruples, doubtless] *to speak of it* in a way which may perhaps lessen its value as a commercial speculation. Now, as I write only for pecuniary profit, I am willing to withhold the paper from the public eye [compulsive scruples notwithstanding] if, after perusing the accompanying copy, &c., you feel disposed to *purchase it* at a *fair remuneration*." With an ingenuous and anti-circumlocutory *naiveté*, in the strictest and most admirable keeping with so business-like and off-hand a proposal, Mr. Booty Couzens adds that "It is quite immaterial to me whether it be read by many or by one—whether it be preserved in the pages of a scientific periodical, or destroyed,—if I profit by it." Having thus come directly to the point, and with a bare naked unconsciousness of the exposure of aught but the most innocent and comely intent, clothed and armed at all points with the *honi soit qui mal y pense*, Mr. Booty Couzens, with the impatience, doubtless, of a practised man of business, awaited the receipt, in due course, of an order "payable to bearer on demand." But, strange to say, Mr. Wood took it into his head that an attempt to cozen both him and the public for the sake of booty shone through the sharp practice of his correspondent, and after ascertaining from him that the "paper on 'Governors,' *if* published in one of the periodicals, will *most likely* appear in the *Civil Engineers' and Architects' Journal*;" but that he was "yet undecided as to whether it shall appear in a periodical, or form part of a separate pamphlet on that and another part of the steam-engine—in all probability the latter, as being the more remunerative,"—Mr. Wood considered the Mansion-house to be the proper arena on which to discuss and settle his small account with Mr. Couzens. Mr. Hobler, as the professional advocate of the claims of the latter to his due measure of justice, declared that the procedure of Mr. Wood "was nothing more nor less than an attempt to prevent the fair discussion of a scientific subject!" Alderman Gibbs, however, was stupid enough not to be able to see how that could be; but he did not think a mere police magistrate the proper judge of the merits of such a *discussion*, and therefore dismissed the case, as he could not find any *libel* in it, or any *matter* of which *he* could take notice.

EXETER DIOCESAN ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.—On the 5th inst. the second ecclesiological excursion of the Plymouth branch of the above society during the present year, took place amid the remains of the ancient Castle of Plympton. The Castle of Plympton affords but little architectural data; but its form and the numerous earthworks connected with it prove that, at one time, it must have been a place of great strength. Some few remains of a grouted wall, which stand on the top of the mound, are now the only relic of this ancient fortress. It possesses no architectural features beyond its circular form, nor any of its military attributes, excepting a very curious passage or flue, not more than a foot or so in width and height, which runs through the thickness of the wall, in a somewhat horizontal position, but at different heights from the ground. The real purpose for which this was formed it is perhaps impossible to determine: too small for the passage even of a child, and unfitted for a drain, its only probable use, according to the *Plymouth Times*, was the convey-

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